



**{In Archive} Chuitna Coal Project Update**

**Jamey Stoddard** to: nvt\_environmental

Cc: asandstol, Tami Fordham, Katherine Brown

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Harriet:

I understand from talking with Tami Fordham of our Tribal unit that you had some questions regarding the status of the proposed Chuitna Coal Project.

Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)

The SEIS process has been on hold for some while now pending receipt of PacRim's revised proposed action and numerous baseline reports.

--PacRim Coal is currently putting together the final pieces of their revised proposed action. They expect it will be complete any day now for agency review.

--Updated Clean Water Act 402 (NPDES) and 404 (wetlands) permits are expected to be submitted to EPA and the Corps of Engineers in early Spring 2010

--PacRim Coal submitted their draft water management plan to the SEIS team last month for review

--Several baseline reports (Seep study, lake sample report, groundwater report, 2009 fish monitoring study, fish tissue sample report) are scheduled to be submitted for agency review any day now

--PacRim will be meeting with EPA management in Seattle on Thursday, Feb. 18. With NPDES authority for the mining sector transferring to the State of Alaska on Oct. 31, 2010, it looks unlikely that EPA will be the NPDES authority for the proposed project. As the issuance of a new source NPDES permit was EPA's federal action requiring a NEPA analysis, EPA is now reassessing its role as lead agency for the SEIS. The purpose of the meeting is to give PacRim the opportunity to meet with EPA management and express their desire for EPA to remain the lead agency for development of the SEIS.

--Stefenie Ludwig with the SHPO office is coordinating with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Museum of the North to discuss the need for a long term agreement between the University and the various land owners involved in the project. The agreement would supersede the provisional curation request currently in place for the project and provide for a long term arrangement for the accession and curation of artifacts at the Museum.

The majority of the SEIS development process will begin in earnest once we receive the revised proposed action and new and updated baseline reports. When this happens we will be developing a draft project/SEIS schedule to distribute to folks. I also anticipate that we will be going out for public informational meetings to update the public on the changes to the proposed project and the revised schedule for the SEIS process.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

The HIA process has also been on hold for some time pending receipt of the revised proposed action and baseline reports.

--Jake Bell with ANTHC has put together a proposal for a nutritional survey within the NVT to support the HIA. Having baseline nutritional data--in addition to subsistence data--is considered essential for the development of the HIA. The aim of the study would be to: 1) assess current dietary intake in the community 2) describe factors associated with dietary quality and household food security throughout the year 3) determine the extent to which these factors, for which data is available, changed over time. The completion of these three phases will allow for appropriate quantification of baseline nutritional status and potential health impacts from the proposed mine. The proposal is still in draft form and under review by EPA. Nothing has been decided yet, and funding is still uncertain, but obviously this work will require close coordination with NVT and the State.

I hope that helps. I have been including Angela Sandstol on my monthly update emails so you may want to coordinate with her as well. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss things further. Thanks.

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